



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1220

January Session, 2007

* SB01220PH 032307 *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (4) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2007*):

4 (4) "Eligible children" means children from birth to thirty-six months
5 of age [,] who are not eligible for special education and related services
6 pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, and who need early
7 intervention services because such children; [are:]

8 (A) [Experiencing a significant developmental] Are experiencing
9 delay [as measured by standardized diagnostic instruments and
10 procedures, including informed clinical opinion, in one or more of the
11 following areas] in one or more areas of development including: (i)
12 Cognitive development; (ii) physical development, including vision or
13 hearing; (iii) communication development; (iv) social or emotional
14 development; or (v) adaptive skills; [or]

15 (B) [Diagnosed] Have been diagnosed as having a physical or
16 mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in
17 developmental delay; or

18 (C) Have four or more early life risk factors, as defined in

19 regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-
20 248d, as amended by this act.

21 Sec. 2. Section 17a-248d of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

23 (a) The lead agency, in coordination with the participating agencies
24 and in consultation with the council, shall establish and maintain a
25 state-wide birth-to-three system of early intervention services pursuant
26 to Part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC
27 1471 et seq., for eligible children and families of such children.

28 (b) The state-wide system shall include a system for compiling data
29 on the number of eligible children in the state in need of appropriate
30 early intervention services, the number of such eligible children and
31 their families served, the types of services provided and other
32 information as deemed necessary by the lead agency.

33 (c) The state-wide system shall include a comprehensive child-find
34 system and public awareness program to ensure that eligible children
35 are identified, located, referred to the system and evaluated. The
36 following persons and entities, within two working days of identifying
37 a child from birth to three years of age suspected of having a
38 developmental delay or of being at risk of having a developmental
39 delay, shall refer the parent of such child to the early intervention
40 system unless the person knows the child has already been referred:
41 (1) Hospitals; (2) child health care providers; (3) local school districts;
42 (4) public health facilities; (5) early intervention service providers; (6)
43 participating agencies; and (7) such other social service and health care
44 agencies and providers as the commissioner specifies in regulation.

45 (d) The commissioner, in coordination with the participating
46 agencies and in consultation with the council, shall adopt regulations,
47 pursuant to chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of section 17a-248,
48 as amended by this act, and sections 17a-248b to 17a-248g, inclusive,
49 38a-490a and 38a-516a.

50 (e) The commissioner, in coordination with the participating
 51 agencies and in consultation with the councils, shall adopt regulations
 52 pursuant to chapter 54, to define early life risk factors for purposes of
 53 determining eligibility for services under the birth-to-three program.
 54 Such risk factors may include, but need not be limited to, the
 55 following: (1) Low birthweight; (2) reduced gestation; (3) maternal age
 56 at the time of the child's birth; (4) family violence; (5) family substance
 57 abuse; (6) a history of being in the care or custody of the Commissioner
 58 of Children and Families; or (7) prolonged hospital admissions.

59 [(e)] (f) The state-wide system shall include a system for required
 60 notification to any local or regional school board of education no later
 61 than January first of each year of any child who resides in the local or
 62 regional school district, participates in the state-wide program and will
 63 attain the age of three during the next fiscal year. Such system of
 64 notification shall include provisions for preserving the confidentiality
 65 of such child and of the parent or guardian of such child.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	17a-248(4)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-248d

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*